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VOP REPORTS ON 'ARAFAT'S MEETING WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT

JN271705Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 27 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday evening met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Zuhayr Muhsin, Talal Naji, Habib Qahwaji, members of the PLO executive committee; and by brother Abu Mahir, member of the Fatah Central Committee. On the Syrian side the meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the current Arab and international situation, particularly those relating to the Palestinian issue.

The radio correspondent has learned that the viewpoints of the Syrian and Palestinian sides were in agreement, especially regarding the need for steadfastness in the face of the Zionist scheme and insistence on immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The two sides also emphasized the importance of preserving the Palestinian revolution as represented by the PLO without infringing on its rights.

The two sides stressed the need to consolidate legitimate authority in Lebanon, guarantee Lebanese sovereignty over all Lebanese territories and continue regulating the Palestinian-Lebanese relations within the framework of the Cairo and Shtawrah agreements and in implementation of the resolutions of the two Arab summit conferences in Cairo and Riyadh.

The meeting with President al-Asad lasted 2 hours, after which brother Abu 'Ammar left Damascus for Beirut.

Immediately after his arrival in Beirut yesterday, brother leader Abu 'Ammar met with Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss in the presence of Abu Iyad and Abu Mahir, members of the Fatah Central Committee. During the meeting, current local affairs were discussed.

'ARAFAT ADDRESSES GRADUATING PALESTINIAN CADETS

JN271920Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1620 GMT 27 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpts] Following is a recording of an important political speech delivered by the brother leader Abu 'Ammar at the graduation this afternoon of the third course of cadets, called the class of martyr leader Abu 'Ali Iyad. The ceremony was held at the Palestinian military college. [begin recording]

The 1968 Al-Karamah battle [site in Jordan where the Jordanian army and the Palestinian resistance fought a battle in 1968 against the Israelis; Al-Karamah in Arabic means "dignity"] was the battle of the Arab nation's dignity. The Al-Karamah of 1978 was another battle of the Arab nation, the Palestinian revolution and the battle of the Nationalist Movement in southern Lebanon. It was the battle of southern Lebanon, which says to Begin and Carter that this Arab nation will not kneel but will stand fast and fight until victory. This is the meaning of the war in the south which Carter, Begin and their agents in that region expected to be a picnic when Carter agreed that terrorist Menahem Begin should carry out his campaign. But you who carry the guns, the revolutionaries and the free people in our Arab nation, have given him a lesson that this soil is Arab, Arab, Arab and will remain Arab, Arab, Arab. [applause]

Has the conspiracy come to an end? No, it has not and we all know that. We also know that what has changed are the forms and colors of the conspiracy, like a chameleon. The basic aim of the conspiracy is to make the Arab region kneel to the concept of the U.S. capitulation. I say on your behalf here at this military college--which had the honor of fighting side by side with your brothers in southern Lebanon--I say that this conspiracy will fail and be defeated. Absolutely no one can break this revolution or soften it. What is more, this Arab region is not for sale in the slave and agent market. People like [name indistinct] defend this Arab region. [applause]

This region has heroes who fight Gur [former Israeli chief of staff] from house to house and from street to street. Gur said he could not enter An-Nabatiyah and Tyre for fear of casualties. I challenged him to enter Tyre or An-Nabatiyah. [applause] I defy him with those heroes who took a brave, heroic and proud stand. They do not defend the Palestinian revolution or the Lebanese Nationalist Movement; they do not defend the Palestinian or the Lebanese people; they defend the Arab region and their Arab nation, so that this Arab region may retain its free will, neither subjugated to Begin nor Carter and their agents in the region.

On behalf of the fighters in the Palestinian revolution, I say that this unity of the revolution is so strong that nothing can harm it. Whenever a martyr falls dead, processions and processions of [words indistinct] follow. In the name of all those heroes of the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Lebanese nationalist forces, I say that this unity is the criterion, protector and guard of all these revolutionary accomplishments. Thus I say that this revolution is towering. It is a mountain which is not shaken by the wind. [applause]

The road is long and difficult, but the great thing about it is that our kinfolk in the occupied territories have never stopped their struggle for a second. The children use stones and every day there is a battle inside the occupied territories. I challenge Begin and the new Israeli chief of staff, Eytan, to disclose the battles which take place daily inside the occupied territories. I challenge them because our people have not for a moment stopped their escalation of struggle there.

There are some in the region who still bet on the American horse and the American promises. I can tell you that these are abortive attempts because the American colonialist and imperialist logic aims at (?subjugating) this region to the American monopolies and the masters of the American monopolies led by the United States. You, bearers of guns in this region, have the sacred duty of carrying on with your revolution until we arrive, together with this banner which passed to me, in Jerusalem and there hold it up high and fluttering.

In the same manner as the Vietnamese peasant forced the U.S. ambassador to flee in a helicopter from Saigon, the bearer of this banner will force Begin to flee from Jerusalem and will hold this banner fluttering high above Jerusalem, above Jerusalem, above Jerusalem, above Jerusalem. [applause]

ANSA: PLO DENIES LINK WITH RED BRIGADES

AU2720037Y Rome ANSA in English 1930 GMT 27 Apr 78 AU

[Text] Rome, April 27 (ANSA)--A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) denial of reports linking the kidnappers of Italian Christian Democrat Chairman Aldo Moro to the Palestinian resistance said here today that the PLO had always "condemned terrorism, wherever it comes from."

"It is wrong to identify the Palestinian people with small terroristic fringes, just as it would be wrong to identify all the Italian people with the Red Brigades," the PLO office in the capital asserted. The PLO also said that Moro has always had an "attitude of human and political understanding and solidarity" for the Palestinian people. "Whoever kidnapped Moro, did not just want to strike Moro, but also the just Palestinian cause," the communique said.

The PLO added that it joined those in Italy and the world asking for Moro's release and voiced "confidence that Italian democracy will [word indistinct] this extremely tough test stronger and more united."

KUWAITI PAPERS REPORT RIFT WITHIN FATAH

NC2214587 Doha QNA in Arabic 1303 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 22 April--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN today affirms that the command of the Palestine national liberation movement, Fatah, has decided to detain Abu Dawud, a leader of the movement, but that he is still free and living in Beirut. The command is reported to have issued other orders for the detention of Abu Hatim, Majid Abu Shararah and Naji 'Allush. These reports have been increasing the tension within Palestinian circles in Beirut since last Monday, when the disagreement erupted within the Fatah movement.

In a dispatch from Beirut, the paper says that the disagreement led to the creation of a broad current known as the national democratic current, which demands radical reforms in the movement. It also demands the release of more than 120 persons detained by the Fatah command, including several Lebanese who have been working with Fatah for many years.

The paper adds that Faruq Qaddumi, secretary of the Fatah Central Committee, has been exerting great efforts and playing a primary role in the contacts as he is on good terms with various sides. These attempts, however, have been unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH reports in a dispatch from Beirut that the situation within Fatah is threatening an explosion in south Lebanon and the area. The paper says that there are two Palestinian trends: the first, which is led by Abu Iyad and includes Abu Salih, Majid Abu Shararah, Abu Dawud, Naji 'Allush and a number of area commanders, calls for rejecting the cease-fire in confronting the Israeli occupation and rejecting participation in an Arab summit. The other, which is led by Abu 'Ammar, Abu Jihad and Dr George Habash, opposes the stands advocated by the first.

Clashes in Fatah

LD241756Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 24 Apr 78 pp 1, 19 LD

[Text] Beirut--AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM--Abu Salih, member of the Central Committee of Fatah and of the Al-'Asifah forces command, in a statement to the press yesterday declared his opposition--without specifying names--to the armed movement led by Abu Dawud against the decision by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and leader of Fatah, to facilitate the task of the UN forces in southern Lebanon and to temporarily suspend military operations.

On Tuesday Abu Dawud said that at least three fedayeen were killed on Monday night in a clash with Fatah groups. Abu Dawud said in the statement that he had prepared 130 Fatah fighters to carry out operations behind Israeli lines in southern Lebanon but that a Fatah force, at the order of Abu Jihad, the military commander of the Fatah forces, attacked the group and arrested its members after a number of them had been killed or wounded.

Fatah sources told AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM last night, however, that those to whom Abu Dawud referred belong to a Fatah splinter group under the command of Abu Nidal, who is in Baghdad. Ninety-six of them had arrived in Lebanon by air from Iraq and 21 others had arrived from other countries, including the Gulf states. They were transported to the south with the connivance of Abu Dawud after they had been armed and equipped with the aim of creating problems and clashes with the UN forces.

The sources said that Abu Dawud is under arrest and is being interrogated and that members of the group who were arrested have made detailed confessions regarding the tasks assigned to them.

In his press statement yesterday, Abu Salih accused elements within Fatah, which he did not specify, of trying to make Fatah deviate from "its national democratic course and to link it to the caravan of capitulation."

He referred in his statement to "the internal incidents which took place in southern Lebanon as a result of a serious individualist decision which violates the organizational structure and the democratic base which Fatah has historically been anxious to maintain."

Abu Salih said that the decision to which he referred "constitutes an extension of the continuing attempts to make Fatah deviate from its national democratic course and link it to the caravan of capitulation represented by President Anwar as-Sadat and his Arab supporters."

He added: "We will not allow such a decision to pass due to our concern for the unity of the movement and the continuity of revolution within the nationalist democratic line."

He said: "Fatah, throughout its experience, has taught hard lessons to all those who tried to draw the movement away from its objectives in the interests of the reactionaries. Despite all circumstances, the movement will remain capable of preserving its unity, loyal to its objectives and principles, and armed with its long experience and dependent on its cadres and bases in opposing reaction and thwarting all the imperialist plots."

He said: "The plot is now aimed at striking Palestinian internal unity following the Zionist occupation's failure to achieve its objective of forcing the resistance to join the capitulationist march."

Abu Salih concluded: "In the light of this we ask all resistance factions to immediately lay down a detailed plan and a clear political program that will consolidate the unity of resistance and place it at the beginning of a serious path to stand in the face of the capitulationist settlement and continue the fight against the Zionist enemy on the basis of strengthening cohesion with the Lebanese nationalist movement and all the Arab and international nationalist democratic forces."

The Palestinian rejection front and the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP] in a joint statement rejected what they described as "the armed clashes which took place within one of the Palestinian resistance factions" and called for a democratic dialog to solve disputes. Obviously, the statement means the Fatah movement.

The statement, which was issued following a joint meeting of the DPFLP and the rejection front, which includes the organizations rejecting a negotiated settlement of the Middle East problem under the present balance of power, said that "the present method of solving disputes between various revolutionary factions is rejected because it harms the Palestinian revolution and the cause of the Palestinian people."

FATAH TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATING CEASE-FIRE VIOLATORS

NC261327Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 26 April--The Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR says today that the Fatah Central Committee last night ended its 3-day plenary meetings.

The paper says that during the meetings, the Fatah command discussed a number of matters, particularly Fatah's internal and organizational situation, the situation in Lebanon, the general political situation with regard to the Palestinian issue and the Middle East crisis.

Informed sources have affirmed that the Fatah command has decided to continue the investigations it initiated with the Fatah men who were arrested in south Lebanon for refusing to abide by the cease-fire decision.

Some Fatah fedayeen, commanded by Abu Dawud, had refused to abide by Yasir 'Arafat's decision to cease fire in south Lebanon [words indistinct] fedayeen to operate behind the Israeli invading forces, despite the cease-fire decision.

PALESTINIAN FEDAYEEN SHOW ISRAELI POW TO PRESS

JN280758Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0719 GMT 28 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 28 April--Palestinian fedayeen in one of their bases in southern Lebanon yesterday presented to journalists and photographers the Zionist soldier who was captured on 4 April. The soldier was captured during the clash between a group of fedayeen and an Israeli patrol near the southern Lebanese town of Tyre in which five other enemy soldiers were killed. A Palestinian spokesman said that the Zionist soldier will be tried as a war criminal.

PLO'S QADDUMI MEETS WITH SENEGALESE PRIME MINISTER

JN2717217 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 27 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department and head of the Palestinian delegation to the conference of Islamic foreign ministers being held in Dakar, yesterday met with Mr Abdou Diouf, prime minister of Senegal. The WAFA correspondent has learned that the meeting dealt with the recent Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and the latest developments in the Middle East. The Senegalese prime minister expressed to brother Abu al-Lutf Senegal's support for the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian delegation to the conference is regularly contacting the African and Arab delegations to explain the latest developments in the Arab region and the recent Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon.

SIX ARAB COUNTRIES DECIDE TO COVER ILO DEFICIT

JN2420577 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Six Arab countries have decided to cover the deficit in the ILO's subscription. These countries are Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE and Bahrain. The ILO subscription decreased by one-fourth as a result of U.S. withdrawal from this body.

Dr Tayyib al-Hudayri, director general of the Arab labor organization, said that his organization will act to insure that this Arab financial share in the ILO will be directed toward funding Arab projects within the ILO framework.

INVITATIONS EXTENDED FOR ARAB ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

NC2615127 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 April--The Arab League today extended invitations for an Arab economic conference to draw up a framework for a joint Arab economic action strategy up to the year 2000. This conference is scheduled to be held in Baghdad on 6 May and will last 6 days. Representatives from all the Arab states and the Arab organizations and institutions working in the economic sphere as well as a number of distinguished Arab thinkers and economists will take part in this conference.

ARAB MONETARY FUND MEETS IN ABU DHABI

JN2520357 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1920 GMT 25 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 25 April--The second meeting of the first session of meetings of the board of governors of the Arab Monetary Fund opened here this evening. The meeting was attended by 21 Arab delegations and by representatives from Arab and international monetary and banking institututions.

Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid al-Falasa, UAE minister of finance and industry, delivered the opening speech in his capacity as chairman of the previous session. He touched on Arab and international monetary and economic issues. Shaykh Hamdan affirmed that modern economic developments [words indistinct] inflation in industrial countries. He said that the state of instability in the international monetary system had led to the deterioration of the economic situation in developing countries and in Arab oil-producing and nonproducing countries.

The UAE minister of finance and industry appealed to world states to reassess international actions so as to achieve the highest degree of flexibility and balance in international exchanges. This requires the adoption of several measures.

The board unanimously elected Dr Sa'id an-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, as chairman of the second session of the board for a period of 1 year. Bahraini Minister of Finance and National Economy Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim was elected deputy chairman.

Decisions Issued

JN262115Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 26 April--The conference of the board of governors of the Arab Monetary Fund, which ended its meetings in Abu Dhabi this evening, has decided to approve the procedural rules of the board according to the amended formula. The conference approved the procedural rules of the council's executive directors according to the amended formula and stated that the board has taken note of the financial rules of the fund which were issued by the board of executive directors. The conference also approved the continued application of the financial rules of the fund issued by the board of executive directors.

The conference has postponed asking Palestine to pay its share in the declared capital of the fund until Palestine can make use of the fund's activities.

The fund urged the member states to comply with their commitments as soon as possible. The conference decided that the member states should pay 25 percent of the capital before the end of May 1979, on condition that not less than 50 percent of the paid shares is used for loans by that date.

AFRO-ARAB MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO MEET IN JUNE

NC261513Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 26 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Apr--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad today met with Husayn Dhu Qa'ar, the director of the office for Arab-African cooperation in the OAU. During this meeting, which was also attended by the director of the African division in the Arab League, 'Abdallah Adam, it was agreed to hold the third session of the permanent ministerial committee for Arab-African cooperation from 5-7 June in Mozambique or Togo. The session is to discuss developments in the sphere of Afro-Arab cooperation and to evaluate it on the basis of the resolutions of the first Afro-Arab summit conference which was held in Cairo in March 1977.

REPORT ON ARAB PARTIES CONFERENCE STATEMENT

For a Moscow TASS account of a statement adopted by a conference of Communist and Workers' parties of Arab countries held in mid-April and published in the Iraqi newspaper, TARIQ ASH-SHA'B, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 28 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

BAHRAIN

CHANGE OF POLICY ON OFFSHORE COMPANIES DENIED

JN220939Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0824 GMT 22 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Manama, 22 April--Hasan an-Nisf, assistant under secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Agriculture in Bahrain, has denied that his country's government intends to go back on its policy of permitting the establishment of offshore companies in Bahrain. He emphasized the good and positive results which the national economy has gained from such companies. An-Nisf pointed out that the decision to permit the establishment of such companies came on the basis of a profound study by officials in the Ministry of Trade and Agriculture and the approval of this study by the Bahraini Cabinet.

KUWAIT

WEEKLY MAGAZINE AL-BALAGH SUSPENDED FOR 1 MONTH

NC202011Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1944 GMT 20 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 20 April--Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Shaykh Jabir al-'Ali today issued a decision suspending the Kuwaiti weekly magazine AL-BALAGH, which is published by the Social Reform Association, for 1 month beginning today. The decision was adopted because the magazine violated the Kuwaiti publications law by publishing political articles incompatible with Kuwait's policy.

OMAN

NEW OIL WELL DISCOVERED IN SOUTHERN DHOFAR

JN261509Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Muscat, 26 April--The discovery of a new oil well in the Hahab area in southern Dhofar was announced in Muscat today. The well is 20 km from the Ma'mul oilfield, which will begin production in 1980. The Omani Oil Development Company reports that the newly discovered oil is of good quality. The average production of the Ma'mul oilfield and the small fields in the vicinity is expected to reach 30,000 barrels daily. The oil will be pumped to Raysut port on the Arabian sea via a 220-km pipeline.

SAUDI ARABIA

KING KHALID RECEIVES RAS AL-KHAIMAH RULER

JN261110Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 26 April--His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received in his office at the Al-Ma'dhar Palace at 1100 today His Highness Shaykh Saqr ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, the ruler of Ras al-Khaimah, who is currently visiting the kingdom. The meeting was attended by Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, and Shaykh Muhammad Manzur ar-Rumayyih, Saudi ambassador to the UAE.

BRITISH OFFICIAL CONCLUDES 4-DAY VISIT TO RIYADH

JN261112Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 26 April--Merlyn Rees, British secretary of state for Home Department, left Riyadh for Jidda this morning enroute home at the end of a 4-day visit to the kingdom at the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the interior minister, who saw him off at the airport.

The British secretary of state for Home Department was also seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Ahmad ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy interior minister, and several Interior Ministry employees.

During the visit the British minister had talks with Prince Nayif on cooperation in the fields of security and police between the kingdom and Britain.

KING KHALID TO MAKE VISIT TO BELGIUM 8 MAY

JN211745Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 21 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brussels, 21 April--The Belgian Foreign Ministry announced today that His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz will pay an official visit to Belgium 8-10 May at the invitation of King Baudouin of Belgium. The ministry said that the visit of His Majesty King Khalid is in return for the visit which King Baudouin paid to the kingdom 4-6 November 1975.

'UKAZ CALLS FOR U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL

LD241358Y Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 19 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial]

[Text] At a time when the U.S. administration headed by President Jimmy Carter insistently stresses the need for giving momemtum to the peace process in the Middle East and when there is talk about a new U.S. initiative which the U.S. President is preparing to launch after congress finishes discussing the Panama Canal agreement, Menahem Begin declares that his government is continuing to build new settlements on the occupied West Bank despite the illegality of such settlements and despite the world's condemnation.

If the United States is urging the creation of an atmosphere suitable for the continuation of peace talks, no such atmosphere can come about when Israeli bulldozers level Arab lands in preparation for the Zionist usurpation of these lands to build settlements on them. Nor can such an atmosphere come about through the misleading interpretations of UN Resolution 242, which Menahem Begin makes and disseminates to the foreign press, alleging that Israeli withdrawal does not mean withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, on the basis of the illogical concept that these are liberated territories.

Nor is it conducive to such an atmosphere for Israel to give daily excuses to postpone its withdrawal from southern Lebanon and hinder the implementation of Resolution 425 or to find reasons for not withdrawing, sometimes allegedly because of Palestinian presence and at other times on the pretext of Lebanon's security.

Israel is doing all this at a time when several U.S. statements have been made--whether by Carter or Vance--calling for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and from all the Arab fronts, including the West Bank and Gaza.

The United States knows well that Israel will not withdraw unless it really feels the impact of U.S. pressure--material pressure, such as withholding arms supplies or withdrawing financial and moral support. But Israel no longer heeds statements and appeals regardless of their strength or their sources.

The United States, which has declared its commitment to achieving a peaceful settlement, must couple such commitment with action, for action alone can make Israel comply with the will for peace.

U.S. REACTION TO PRINCE FAHD'S WARNINGS REPORTED

JN261609Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 26 April--The Saudi newspaper AL-JAZIRAH today cites authoritative sources as saying that U.S. President Jimmy Carter recently held two meetings with a number of U.S. economy experts to discuss the warnings of His Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, in his recent speech, at the opening of the meetings of the Board of Governors of the Arab Fund for Economic Development in Africa, regarding the deteriorating economic situation between the rich and poor countries, and the current status of currencies.

The newspaper AL-JAZIRAH reports that international political and press quarters are speculating on Saudi Arabia's possible adoption of a new position regarding oil prices so as to confront the noticeable drop in the value of the dollar. The paper adds that the Saudi oil and finance ministers will soon make a visit to Washington as part of Saudi Arabia's official and unofficial activity in the United States. This visit will complement the recent one made by the Saudi ministers of trade and industry and electricity. The recent activity will be capped by a visit to Washington by Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

The paper further reports that this activity confirms the importance of the coming stage in Saudi-U.S. relations, particularly in the political and economic fields.

BRIEFS

BAHRAINI MINISTER'S DEPARTURE--Manama, 26 April--Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Khalid Al Khalifah, the minister of justice and Islamic affairs, left Manama this morning to visit Turkey at the invitation of the Turkish Red Crescent to attend its anniversary celebrations. [Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0836 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN]

KUWAITI MESSAGE TO YAR--San'a', 26 April--Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, received today a written message from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. The message was delivered by the Kuwaiti ambassador in San'a' when he was received by the YAR president. [Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1507 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN]

ARAB INDUSTRIES OFFICIAL LEAVES RIYADH--Riyadh, 26 April--Dr Ashraf Marwan, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab industries organization, left Riyadh this evening for Jidda to conclude his visit to the kingdom. During the visit, he conveyed a verbal message to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat. [Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1757 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN]

PDRY-UGANDAN RELATIONS--Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, assistant secretary general of the National Front and chairman of the Presidential Council, today received the credentials of (John Salis), the nonresident ambassador of Uganda to the PDRY. He also received Bashir Juma, governor of Uganda's southern province, who delivered a letter from President Amin. "The message concerned the friendly relations between the PDRY and the Republic of Uganda. The brother chairman of the Presidential Council told (?brother) Bashir that Democratic Yemen is working to strengthen relations between the two friendly countries." [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD/EA]

SOVIETS WARNED AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL NILE WATERS

NC271657Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The recommendations and resolutions of the joint Egyptian-Sudanese technical committee on agricultural development will be announced in Khartoum this evening.

In a statement to our radio reporter, Eng 'Abd al-'Azim Abu al-'Ata, minister of irrigation and reclamation and head of the Egyptian side on the committee, has stated that Egypt is strongly sensitive to any attempt designed to encroach on the sources of the Nile. Egypt also regards any attempt to control the sources of the Nile as direct aggression against it.

The minister of irrigatio and land reclamation said that Egypt is watching with deep anxiety and great concern the studies being carried out by Soviet experts on the sources of the Blue Nile and Lake Tana [in Ethiopia] for the purpose of exploiting or controlling their waters, which account for 85 percent of the water resources of the Nile.

The minister of irrigation and land reclamation said: We do not want to see happen between us and Ethiopia what happened between Iraq and Syria in terms of a long-standing dispute over the Euphrates. He said that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has made its view clear and has taken the necessary measures in this regard.

The minister added: We remind the Soviets that British imperialism stayed in Africa for more than 100 years, during which it encroached on all the rights of the peoples of the Nile valley basin, except their water rights.

AMBASSADOR TO UN URGES ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

NC241718Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1513 GMT 24 Apr 78 NC

[Text] New York, 24 April--Egypt's permanent representative to the United Nations, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, has urged the UN General Assembly to clearly support Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for the immediate and complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all of Lebanon. He also called on the General Assembly to reject any Israeli conditions or pretexts for not carrying out the withdrawal or for delaying it.

Dr al-Majid also asked the General Assembly to request the Security Council to adopt effective measures to compel Israel to implement its resolutions. He added that the Security Council has no authority or effectiveness as long as Israel continues its aggression and occupation and ignores the UN resolutions.

In a speech delivered to a recent special session of the General Assembly to discuss the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, Dr al-Majid affirmed that Egypt considers this aggression a dangerous development in the Middle East and a blatant violation of the UN Charter. It also adds a new obstacle to the realization of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the area.

Dr al-Majid explained that Egypt had voted to approve the necessary funds for implementing UN Resolution 425 and that this was based on two considerations:

First, the Lebanese Government had agreed to the presence of the UN forces on its territories, and this agreement is a legal basis for the presence of these forces in Lebanon.

Second, withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Lebanese territories is a pressing and urgent matter which was acknowledged by the Security Council, and is in no way linked to the complete deployment of the UN forces or conditional on stipulations which violate Lebanese sovereignty.

Dr al-Majid expressed Egypt's appreciation of the role played by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim since the beginning of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, adding that this role reflects the interest of the entire international community which is represented in the UN organization. He said that Egypt will always support the secretary general's constructive efforts for the realization of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, because of Egypt's belief that the United Nations is the strongest pillar against occupation and aggression.

Concluding his speech, Dr al-Majid called on the members of the international organization to adhere to the UN Charter and to act to deter the aggressor.

The special session convened by the UN General Assembly to discuss the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon began 20 April. It adopted resolutions related to the financing of the UN emergency forces in Lebanon.

AL-AHRAM COMMENTS ON U.S. PLANES DEAL

NC280748Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 28 Apr 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Planes Deal--A New Test" AL-AHRAM today examines the attitudes of various factions toward the sale of U.S. planes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and how these attitudes reveal the intentions of these factions as far as the Middle East peace issue is concerned.

AL-AHRAM says: With the Carter administration's announcement of the date it will send the bill on the planes deal to Congress, there has been increased opposition to the move. Voices have been raised calling on Carter to delay the bill another 6 months, to split the deal into separate bills, or to approve the planes for Israel and drop the plans for planes to Saudi Arabia.

All this is taking place as Israeli Foreign Minister Dayan arrives in Washington to mobilize the forces opposed to the deal and to say that Israel has no objection to the entire deal being scrapped if the U.S. administration insists on its position.

AL-AHRAM adds: It appears that the Carter administration has not yet decided whether to give in to the pressure from Israel and its supporters in Congress or to proceed with its declared intention to send the bill to Congress. This hesitation is harmful because of the real political significance of this deal, with which the U.S. Government had intended to emphasize a specific position on the Middle East peace efforts. Deferring this deal will lead to one of two things: It will either weaken confidence in the U.S. ability to influence the peace efforts, or increase Israeli intransigence and arrogance, because Israel will feel it can play havoc with U.S. domestic and foreign policies. Neither of these two possibilities will help the U.S. role in the Middle East in any way.

AL-AHRAM ON TIMING OF ISRAELI LEADERS' U.S. VISIT

LD271849Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Apr 78 p 3 LD

[Hamdi Fu'ad article: "The Israeli Week Festival in the United States and Secrets of Atherton's Mission in Cairo"]

[Text] The Israeli week festival will begin in Washington and in cities and towns throughout the United States with the arrival today of Moshe Dayan--uninvited--in the U.S. capital for talks with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. He will be followed by Menahem Begin, who has chosen the United States in particular for the opening of his celebrations marking the establishment of the State of Israel.

The timing of the visit and the resumption of talks with the United States was a cunning choice by the Israeli Government, as this timing coincides with discussion of important subjects to which the United States is supposed to devote all its efforts.

Subject one: Discussion of the U.S. arms deal with Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel in the U.S. Congress.

Subject two: Defining the U.S. position, following consultations that have lasted a year and a half, in order to determine U.S. proposals or ideas on the formula that President Carter will propose as a basis for a declaration of principles to pave the way for serious negotiations to solve the Middle East problem.

Just before Alfred Atherton's arrival in Cairo and at the moment he was departing Washington, Tel Aviv declared that it would send its foreign minister to the United States in order to discuss the new Israeli interpretations of Resolution 242 with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. The U.S. Government decided that it would content itself with holding a dialog with Egypt until the arrival of Moshe Dayan, who was formally invited for a meeting with the secretary of state only after intensive contacts.

Alfred Atherton came to Cairo with a message from President Carter to President as-Sadat assuring him once again of the U.S. President's commitment to a comprehensive and full settlement and to giving momentum to the peace process. The message once again sought Egypt's views on the situation before the beginning of the difficult stage in which Israel will try to test the U.S. ability to face Israeli intransigence and halt the multifaceted and multicolored festival that Begin will stage in many lecture halls in the United States.

The first round of talks between Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and U.S. presidential envoy Atherton began with a detailed analytical discussion of the progress achieved so far in the peace process, which has faltered since Israel declared at its cabinet meeting the basic line it will pursue--namely, to enter into negotiations with all the parties in order to interpret Resolution 242 and to refuse to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel has sent several memos on interpreting the resolution to U.S. Ambassador in Tel Aviv Samuel Lewis. These memos included several alternatives and interpretations of Resolution 242 that were no more than a repetition and rehash of what it has been saying for the past 11 years.

On Sunday President as-Sadat received the U.S. envoy, who asked to return to Washington with an Egyptian position that would be a kind of working paper so that the United States would be able to determine the Egyptian understanding of how to deal with the crisis.

Egypt was clear and definite in declaring its stands:

1. Egypt welcomes the U.S. effort to achieve peace and provides an opportunity for every positive move to reach this objective.

2. President as-Sadat is prepared to send his foreign minister to Washington in order to continue consultations should Cyrus Vance receive a clear Israeli concept compatible with the international, Egyptian and U.S. concept of Resolution 242.

3. Egypt refuses to enter into negotiations regarding the interpretation of Resolution 242 because negotiations should deal with the application of principles, their timetable, and security arrangements in the sense approved by the world community and on the basis of the provisions of Resolution 242. This cannot be achieved by going back 10 years to discuss and interpret the provisions of the resolution.

4. Resolution 242 deals with Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories--that is, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Arab Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and Sinai.

5. Withdrawal from Lebanon is covered by Resolution 425, which calls on Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon immediately. The implementation of this withdrawal cannot be made conditional upon reaching a peace agreement between Israel and the Arab countries, including Lebanon.

Egypt has put forward an important issue, namely: If the U.S. understanding of implementing Resolution 242 is clearly defined as Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, then all other formulas, however different they may be, must be adequately clear on the question of withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza. Withdrawal should result in constitutional and legal measures leading to recognition of the right of the Palestinian people from whose territories Israel withdraws to participate in determining their own future or to have a state of their own.

I can say that U.S. envoy Atherton came to Cairo without any Israeli proposals for the simple reason that Israel's understanding of peace has not yet become clear enough to allow it to be put into definite proposals that would be suitable as a basis for negotiations.

Consequently, Atherton returned home carrying the same principles that Egypt has declared several times in the past to be the basis for the resumption of negotiations. These principles are no different from the common understanding of peace, because these principles are not an Egyptian invention; they are the only principles to which all countries are committed--including the United States. And the task of "convincing Israel"--a term coined by U.S. diplomacy--to accept these principles has now shifted to the United States.

The Israeli festival will begin in a few hours and will last several days. It will be the festival to mark 30 years since the establishment of the Jewish state. Its venue is the United States, which is now busy with the arms deal and with giving momentum to the peace process in the Middle East.

AL-AKHBAR ON IRAQI ANTI-EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE

LD271306Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 Apr 78 pp 1, 10 LD

[Musa Sabri article: "The Curse of Ingratitude"]

[Excerpts] I am surprised by the Baghdad radio and press, as well as other radios which attack democracy in Egypt. The surprise is not because of the attack, for I know its reasons, but because of the attackers' belief that their empty words can change the mind of even one Egyptian citizen among the millions who enjoy the democratic atmosphere and practice.

The surprise is not because of the attack, for I know its reasons, but because the attackers wish to convince their own peoples, who suffer from the worst kind of ruling terrorist dictatorship, that there is no democracy in Egypt and that things in Egypt are the same as in Iraq.

What is there in Iraq?

The papers there are organs of the ruling single-party system; they are no more than depressing leaflets that no one likes to read because they are simply official pronouncements not subject to discussion.

In Iraq there is a single party ruling as a dictatorship; mouths are gagged so that no one can say no, and the fate of anyone daring to say no--even if police reports say that he only whispered a no--is jail and oblivion. There are acts of physical liquidation within the same party and between the leaderships of the Iraqi party and the Syrian party. Hardly a month passes without an assassination.

It is for this reason that a despotic regime like that of Iraq is afraid that the fever of democracy will spread from Egypt to Iraq. This is the only reason the regime's radio attacks us and its newspapers attack every Egyptian decision. There is no other reason since there is not a single cause for Egyptian-Iraqi relations to be strained. But the profound fear in the hearts of the Iraqi rulers that the Iraqi people might look toward democracy in Egypt, freedom of the press, freedom to form political parties, and the lifting of censorship on writing--all this has forced the ruling party to fabricate such crises. The party attacks the Egyptian initiative and manipulates its agents to attack and slander everything in Egypt.

In all that the Iraqi Government publishes and broadcasts it praises nothing in Egypt except the Egyptian leftist party, which is controlled by a handful of Marxists.

Therefore, we need to pause here to address ourselves to the leftist party in Egypt, now that it has a weekly paper of its own that speaks for it.

It is unfortunate that all that the leftists of this party write in their paper about our national cause is an echo of what is being said in the Iraqi papers and in the countries that have attacked the Egyptian peace initiative. Such attacks make Israel happy, for today it is standing in the "cage" of peace isolated from the whole world, which supports the initiative and denounces Israel's attitude toward peace.

It is only fair to say that a number of the Marxist colleagues outside this party have written articles supporting the Sadat initiative. I would understand if we differed over our internal affairs and over the correct application of the principles of socialist democracy. But what is not understood is that some of us should join the ranks of those who slander Egypt and those who are hoping to hamper its march forward. Such action can only be antinational and anti-Egyptian.

We all know about the strict laws in the Soviet Union that mete out severe punishment to any Soviet citizen who slanders his country and undermines its prestige. Democracy cannot be an excuse to serve non-Egyptian objectives that can only be harmful to the country.

I would like to ask those colleagues controlling the leftist party: Where is the Iraqi, Syrian, Libyan, or Algerian newspaper that dares to write a single line against the foreign policy of its own country, or even against domestic matters? I tell them sincerely that democracy can bear fruits only through sound and responsible practices committed to the interests of this country. First and foremost you are Egyptian citizens.

A Marxist in Egypt enjoys more freedom than in any other Arab country, freedom that even the Marxist Soviet citizen does not enjoy in the country of Marx. Even some of the Egyptian Marxists themselves admit this fact, after touring all the rejectionist countries and discovering the false democracy of the single party or the autocratic ruler.

MUBARAK POSTPONES VISIT TO CAE, CHAD, SUDAN

NC2720014Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Within the framework of the Egyptian move with the African states group and the nonalined countries prior to the meetings the two groups will hold in the next few months, Egyptian Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will hold extensive contacts with a large number of these countries. This has required the vice president to postpone the visits he was scheduled to make to the Central African Empire, Chad and Sudan.

EGYPT ENDORSES AMENDMENT OF ARAB DEFENSE AGREEMENT

NC2715202Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1424 GMT 27 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 April--The Arab Republic of Egypt today lodged with the Arab League the instruments of Egypt's ratification of the amendment to Article 8 of the Arab joint defense agreement and the agreement on economic cooperation among the Arab League states. During its session held last March, the Arab League Council endorsed the amendment to this agreement.

The aim of the amendment is to form the Arab economic and social council of the Arab ministers of foreign affairs and economy, to seek to fulfill the Arab League's objective of consolidating the Arab joint economic action and to empower the economic and social council to approve of the establishment of any Arab specialized organizations, apart from the existing organizations.

Egypt is the seventh Arab state to deposit its instruments of ratification of Article 8. Palestine, Kuwait, Syria, Iraq, the YAR and the UAE have already lodged their instruments of ratification.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES APPROVES DETENTE AGREEMENT

NC271223Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Referring to the concerted parliamentary activity since the beginning of this week, we say that the spirit of optimism was justified. By a unanimous vote of 74 deputies the Chamber of Deputies has approved the draft parliamentary agreement drawn up by the parliamentary committee, which had been approved earlier by representatives of the parliamentary blocs and deputies representing various trends at a previous meeting.

The Chamber of Deputies met at 1130 today under Speaker Kamil al-As'ad. The prime minister, Dr Salim al-Huss, the ministers and 74 deputies attended. Fourteen deputies were absent, seven of whom are now abroad. During the 30-minute closed session, the draft agreement was read an unanimously approved.

National Struggle Front Approves

NC271338Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The national struggle front has met in the house of Deputy Salim 'Abd an-Nur in the presence of Walid Junblatt and Deputies Bahij Taqiy ad-Din and Fu'ad at-Tahini. After the meeting the following statement was issued:

The national struggle front wishes to put on record the following basic points:

1. The formula suggested by the committee stemming from the chamber constitutes an entry to the national detente sought by all.

2. The introduction to the formula and the reference to the resolutions of the Riyadh and Cairo conferences are an integral part of the formula itself and thus a part of the resolution suggested by the committee to the chamber. The ambiguity on this point has been very clearly dispelled by the statement made by Speaker Kamil al-As'ad, who said that discussion of agreements already concluded is up to the executive authority and is dealt with by the government.

3. Since the concluded agreements, especially the Cairo agreement, are executive matters, the committee has not dealt with them in any way.

On this basis the front approves the formula.

Social Nationalists Criticize

JN261807Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 26 April--The Syrian Social Nationalist Party [Al-Hizb as-Suri al-Qawmi al-Ijtima'i] has criticized the resolutions of the 13-member Parliamentary Committee and stressed that these resolutions have not given the pan-Arab dimension its importance, in view of the Zionist enemy's occupation of the south.

Dr 'Abdallah Sa'adah, leader of the party, said in a press statement published in Beirut today that the bloc of deputies does not reflect the balance of the popular forces in the Lebanese arena. He added that any agreement which ignores this fact will lead to the emergence of contradictions, imbalance and strife.

He affirmed that the relationship with the PLO is not confined to the context of the organizational relations between Lebanon and the resistance, but also has a pan-Arab dimension which is binding on Lebanon. He then pointed out that the reconciliation scheme in the committee resolutions has again led Lebanon, after the 2-year war, to adopt a slighty changed version of the sectarian 1943 charter, whose downfall had been unanimously approved by all parties.

AL-JUMAYYIL MEETS SARKIS, SPEAKS OF DAMASCUS VISIT

NC271910Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 27 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Within the context of the political activity going on at the republican palace to deal with political and security issues, President Ilyas Sarkis this evening met with Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil. They reviewed together the general situation in the country and its latest developments.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil's visit to the presidential palace followed the unanimous approval by the Chamber of Deputies of the national agreement, which is considered a positive step taken by the Lebanese on the path of detente and security. Upon leaving the republican palace, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil told newsmen: You know that President al-Asad has invited me to visit Syria and I have realized that it is natural that this visit should be of the greatest importance, because it is imperative to settle some matters in the interest of Lebanon and in the interest of Syria. I think that Syria wants Lebanon's friendship, and it wants this friendship to develop along a secure, impartial and truthful course. It has become natural for me to meet with President Sarkis, who is responsible for Lebanese policy, and to brief him on some matters which he must be informed of.

Concerning his visit to Syria, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said: It is not a protocol visit but a working visit. Speaking of President Hafiz al-Asad, the Phalangist chief said: He is honest, frank and truthful. Al-Jumayyil pointed out that there are matters which should be settled, because there is a group which wants no friendship to be established between Lebanon and Syria. He added that he has heard President al-Asad frequently advocating rapprochement, not estrangement, within the framework of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. He also said that President al-Asad is a man who speaks righteously and grants rights to those who are entitled to rights.

The Phalangist chief said that he had not discussed the subject of the government with President Sarkis. He ruled out the possibility of a prime minister being designated tonight. He pointed out that this appointment could be made tomorrow but added that the question of designating a prime minister is not an easy one.

Al-Jumayyil said he considers what has happened at the Chamber of Deputies as being considerably helpful, since the Chamber of Deputies session was attended by 74 deputies, and it can now be said: This is the country and this is the consensus. He added that President Sarkis has given him a letter to deliver to President al-Asad. He also said: It is imperative for us to dispel all these clouds. There should be no clouds between the two countries.

The Phalangist chief said in conclusion that this visit has been scheduled for Monday at the request of President al-Asad. The chief of the Lebanese Phalangists will be taking with him to Damascus a file for the talks with the Syrian officials. The most prominent item on the file is the nature of the Syrian-Lebanese relations in the domains of politics and security.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil's visit to Damascus assumes a special importance following the latest incidents and the recent Lebanese Parliamentary understanding.

ISRAELI GUNBOATS REPORTEDLY SHELL PALESTINIAN CAMP

NC272038Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 27 Apr 78 NC

[Text] According to reports from southern Lebanon this evening, two Israeli gunboats were spotted at 1900 in the Lebanese territorial waters near Tyre. The Palestinians opened fire on the them. The two gunboats went out of sight for a short time. They later reappeared, accompanied by other gunboats, and started bombarding the Ar-Rashidiyah camp, causing some of its inhabitants to desert it.

UN TROOPS PREPARE TO TAKE OVER FROM ISRAELIS

NC271912Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] French detachments of the United Nations today crossed the barriers on the axes of Al-Bazuriyah, Al-'Abbasiyah, Burj Rahhaland and Dayr Qanun in the direction of the areas now occupied by Israel, prior to the deployment of the UN forces as soon as the Israeli withdrawal from these areas, scheduled for the end of April, is carried out. The Israeli forces have begun to group and take preparatory steps for the scheduled withdrawal.

CAR REPORTEDLY DESTROYED BY EXPLOSION 28 APRIL

NC280750Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 28 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At 0100 today a charge exploded in Mar Mikha'il-Tariq an-Nahr quarter. A car belonging to Lawyer Marcel Jahara was destroyed and windows of nearby buildings were broken.

SYRIAN ARMY CELEBRATES ROCKETS, ARTILLERY DAY

JN2720O7Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the armed forces, the fifth anniversary of Rockets [sawarikh] and Artillery Day was celebrated today. Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of staff of the armed forces, represented the president. The celebration was attended by the director of the Rockets and Artillery Section, the commander of the Northern Region, the director of the Political Section and a number of army officers. A big military parade was staged for the occasion.

TISHRIN: SYRIA DECLINES TO SHARE UNIFIL EXPENSES

JN2807J4Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Apr 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] In a commentary entitled "Who Must Pay the Expenses of the Aggression?", the newspaper TISHRIN today considers the debates conducted by the UN General Assembly's special committee on the financing of UNIFIL. The paper notes that Syria was one of the countries which declined to pay its contribution to the expenses of this operation, which was the result of the blatant aggression launched by Israel against Lebanon.

The paper states: Despite the fact that Syria's contribution is small and hardly worth an argument, the principle itself deserves attention and support. Syria rejects the forcible occupation of the land of others and, thus, it is neither reasonable nor logical to contribute to the price of aggression and the costs of its consequences.

Furthermore, Syria believes that various international norms and regulations and the principles of international law dictate that the aggressor must not only shoulder the consequences of his aggression, but provide compensation for the financial and moral damages resulting from his aggression.

BA'TH LEADER RECEIVES HEAD OF LEBANESE FRONT

JN272106Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, at 1100 today received Kamal Shatila, secretary general of the Nasirite organization in Lebanon and the secretary general of the Lebanese nationalist front. Shatila lauded the role played by the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon. He stressed that they are performing a nationalist and pan-Arab task [words indistinct] in all Lebanese areas.

In an exclusive statement to the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH, Shatila said: The arab deterrent forces managed more than once to prevent [words indistinct] and renewed fighting. He called on all Lebanese to cooperate sincerely with the Arab deterrent forces to aid in restoring unity to Lebanon and maintaining its national freedom in the face of Israeli occupation. Shatila stressed that the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon is aimed not only against the Palestine issue but mainly against Syria under the leadership of President al-Asad. This is because Syria represents a basis of steadfastness and confrontation.

Shatila concluded by saying: Lebanese-Syrian relations must always be based on fraternal cooperation as this will achieve our common interests.

ALGERIA

ASH-SHA'B: FRENCH FORCES INVOLVED IN CHAD FIGHTING

LD2619L2Y Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Apr 78 LD

[Editorial]

[Excerpts] News agencies report that fierce battles are being fought in Chad between the government forces backed by French units on the one hand and the forces of FROLINAT on the other.

These battles have come only a few weeks after the Sabha agreement which raised hopes that one of the hotbeds of tension in our continent had been eliminated. These hotbeds, in our opinion, are no more than a manifestation of the major conspiracy being hatched against Africa. They are aimed at turning it into a field of struggle and conflict and aborting every attempt and effort by the African states to solve the internal problems of our people without foreign interference.

Reports available so far indicate that France is not free of blame for aborting the Sabha agreement, for it has probably brought pressure on President Malloum's government to go back on this agreement. In fact, despite the cease-fire agreement and the removal of foreign bases from the soil of Chad, France, under the cover of darkness, continued to send arms to the Chad Government accompanied by units of the Foreign Legion and paratroopers. This is despite the fact that the slogan of "Africa for the Africans" should have, in the circumstances, been translated into halting all foreign military intervention, helping the parties to liquidate the effects of war and strengthening national unity.

Although the interference by Paris, which is well known for its hostility to the African peoples' aspirations for freedom and independence, is not surprising in view of its colonialist ambitions, the statements President Omar Bongo made in Paris yesterday are astonishing because they come from the OAU chairman.

When President Bongo, speaking in Paris, where he is accustomed to declare his attitudes, accuses the African countries which contributed to solving the bloody and complex problems between the Chad brothers of being behind the fresh outbreak of fighting in Chad, he either does not realize the impact of his statements, or, overwhelmed by temptations and pressures, he has forgotten that he is the OAU chairman and that as such he is bound to adhere to the OAU resolutions and charter which condemn all foreign interference in African affairs and provide for unbiased cooperation in the peaceful settlement of disputes.

President Bongo was not satisfied with accusing Libya and the FROLINAT but also tried to commend and find justifications for French military intervention. Otherwise, how do we explain the coincidence between this statement and France's decision to send more paratroops to Chad?

Regardless of who first violated the principles of the Sabha agreement, we believe, according to reports available to us, that the pressure brought to bear on the Ndjamena government came not only from Paris but also from other African parties that took part in this operation.

Egyptian President as-Sadat's government probably also played a considerable role in aborting the Sabha agreement, since the Egyptian president publicly declared that he asked for U.S. weapons to play a role in Africa that would be an extension of his Arab role which undermined Arab solidarity and recognized the legality of the Zionist occupation of Palestine.

The Sabha agreement meant several things. It was an African contribution to solving problems and it marked the beginning of preventing foreign forces from interference in African affairs.

These forces did not hesitate to explode the situation anew, further complicating it so that forces which are not directly concerned with the conflict would be able to influence it and manipulate it in favor of their immediate and long term interests.

However, the new colonialist forces, which are well known to the peoples of the continent, are today resolved to extend their interference into another part of the continent in order to explode it from within. This situation makes it incumbent upon the African leaders to take swift action to contain the explosion and to insure respect for the Sabha agreement so that matters will not get out of control.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM GISCARD ON CHAD

LD271827Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Following unconfirmed reports from Chad that columns of the National Front for the Liberation of Chad forces are now on the march toward Ndjamena, capital of Chad, brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, has received a cable from French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing requesting him to exert efforts to bring the disputing parties in Chad to accept a cease-fire.

It is known that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Sudan are exerting continuous [word indistinct] for a cease-fire and return to the positions agreed on at the Sabha and Benghazi conference.

The military commission composed of Libya, Sudan and Niger arrived this morning in Ndjamena to work for a cease-fire in Chad. This commission was provided for by the terms of Sabha and Benghazi agreements.

AL-MAHJUB MEETS WITH CUBAN, SFRY OFFICIALS

LD261656Y Tripoli JANA in English 1457 GMT 26 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tunis, April 26, JANA--Mr. Muhammad al-Tahir al-Mahjub, the labour and civil service secretary, yesterday met his Cuban and Yugoslav counterparts at his residence here.

The meeting covered the ways and means to promote bilateral relations between the Jamahiriyah and these two friendly countries in the field of labour, and the possible contribution of Cuban and Yugoslav manpower to the transformational plan being carried out in Jamahiriyah.

During the meeting Mr. al-Mahjub reviewed a number of issues related to the restructuring of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the co-ordination of viewpoints in preparation for the International Labour Conference due to be held in June in Geneva.

FRENCH 'IMPERIALIST' ROLE IN CHAD CRITICIZED

LD230144Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Apr 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Summary] France apparently wants to assume the old colonialist role it practiced in the 18th and 19th centuries. What else can explain the direct French intervention in a number of countries? Provocative and hostile military intervention in other countries' affairs does not go along with the slogans of the French Revolution. France's actions can only antagonize African and Arab countries, and endanger its various interests. France must have appointed itself to be an American policeman protecting international imperialist interests in various regions. This is in complete contradiction to the De Gaulle policy which rejected all aspects of subservience to the United States.

France's provocative and foolhardy behavior raises once again the question of who really is the international terrorist. Is it the one who struggles to recover his rights, or is it the one who transports its land and air forces thousands of miles to start fires and uprisings, spill innocent blood and dig a mass grave for those peaceful nations. Libya was the target of a fierce imperialist campaign because it adhered to the historic declaration which was passed after the emergence of the people's power championing the cause of freedom in the world.

Libya and France have made peaceful initiatives aimed at solving France's issues with other nations, but France became reckless when it carried out air raids against the POLISARIO bases in an attempt to secure the release of its own citizens. Arabs did not like this. France was told then that the return to the old French colonialist behavior was not in France's interest; it could even have adverse effects on its relations with the Arabs. The same situation is repeated today in Chad.

"Libya looks upon the friendly country of Chad as a special country not only because it is a neighbor but also because of historic relations and geographic, human and ethnic ties with Chad. Therefore, Libya is interested in this country being peaceful and stable and being able to devote its efforts to development, welfare and progress and not to fratricide and bloodshed. Moreover, African security is comprehensive and cannot be divided. This is one reason why Libya was eager to act as a friendly and peaceful mediator to achieve national reconciliation in Chad. The issue is African, and Africa is for Africans. The doors must be closed against any external colonialist interventions which would exploit African issues as a pretext to reenter Africa."

"Direct French military intervention in Chad is a challenge to the historic Sabha declaration that was issued after the 4-man summit conference. Intervention violates international law and agreements on noninterference in the domestic affairs of nations. It is a flagrant aggression against the people of Chad, who lost a great deal of blood and means of livelihood in a gory internal battle that has no beginning or end. Consequently this intervention is a challenge to the OAU, which raised the slogan: Africa for Africans."

"French military intervention in Chad is foolish in the proper meaning of the word. It cannot reflect France's interest or the interest of the French people.

"If anything, it serves international imperialism headed by the United States, which was not pleased to see amity and stability prevail in the fraternal and friendly Chad, but wishes it to be an imperialist plantation. Therefore, the people of Chad and the various groups in Chad are called upon to confront the French challenge with greater national unity and with adherence to the historic Sabha declaration and its resolutions."

"The French Government should reexamine its calculations with regard to the French military intervention in Chad. There should be total French control over this decision, exactly as things used to be during the government of President de Gaulle. If not, France will lose everything in return for nothing."

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN RECEIVES 'ARAFAT'S POLITICAL ADVISER

ID2613Z6Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Apr 78 LD

[Text] This morning King Hassan II received in audience at the royal palace in Fez Mr Hani al-Hasan, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, who delivered to his majesty a verbal message from Yasir 'Arafat.

After the meeting, Mr Hani al-Hasan said:

[Al-Hasan--begin recording] I had the honor of being granted an audience with His Majesty King Hasan II today. I conveyed to his majesty a verbal message from Abu 'Ammar, in connection with the situation in the Middle East and in Lebanon. There was an exchange of views on the situation; this exchange was constructive, as is the case in any dialog with his majesty. [end recording]

Present at the meeting were his majesty's advisers Ahmed Reda Guedira, Ahmed Bensouda, and also PLO representative in Morocco Abu Marwen.

IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD2800487 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD

[Text] 'Abbas Khalil 'Atbari, foreign minister of Iran, arrived tonight in Morocco on an official visit to Morocco lasting 3 days. The Iranian foreign minister is accompanied by a delegation which includes the secretary of state at the foreign ministry, Ja'far Nadim. 'Abbas Khalil 'Atbari made a statement to the press in which he explained that he was carrying a private message from his majesty the shah of Iran to His Majesty King Hasan II. He also pointed to the strength of the fraternal relations between the two countries.

He was welcomed by M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation; Muhammad Halru, head of Asia and Africa in the ministry; the ambassador of Iran in Rabat and a number of other officials.

BOUCETTA RETURNS HOME FROM ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

LD2721O9Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD

[excerpt] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta returned home from Dakar after representing Morocco at the Conference of the Islamic Foreign Ministers. One of the important decisions taken at the conference, he said, was to provide for the holding of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Congress in Morocco next year.

SUDAN

EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE NILE COMMITTEE HOLDS MEETING

JN272019Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1835 GMT 27 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 27 April--The joint Sudanese-Egyptian technical committee for agricultural development and irrigation held its final session today and issued its resolutions and recommendations, which include the development of the permanent joint technical commission for the Nile waters.

In this connection the committee studied the steps taken by the Egyptian side regarding the invitation to Ethiopia--extended through diplomatic channels--to participate in the anticipated meeting of the Nile Basin states with the aim of having Ethiopia join the proposed Nile commission.

The committee also studied the work of the joint Sudanese-Egyptian committee for irrigation and the Sudanese-Egyptian committee for agricultural integration. It will be recalled that the meetings of the committee began yesterday. The Sudanese side to the meetings was headed by Engineer Yahya 'Abd al-Majid and the Egyptian side was headed by Engineer 'Abd-'Azim Abu al-'Ata, minister of irrigation and land reclamation at the Arab Republic of Egypt.

ENVOY CONVEYS KAUNDA MESSAGES TO NUMAYRI

LD261847Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Summary] President Numayri today received the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, Dr Francis Deng, who visited East Africa as his personal envoy. Deng briefed Numayri on the results of his tour, during which he delivered messages to the east African heads of state on the coming African summit in Khartoum. He also delivered to him two letters from President Kaunda.

TUNISIA

MINISTER CONVEYS NUMAYRI MESSAGE TO BOURGUIBA

LD271452Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] Prime Minister Nouira conferred today with the Sudanese minister of labor, who later stated that he conveyed to the prime minister a verbal message from President Numayri to President Bourguiba expressing thanks for Bourguiba's efforts to rally the ranks and unify the will of the countries of the Third World. The message also dealt with Numayri's mission to reconcile Arab states. The Sudanese minister said President Numayri told him to inform President Bourguiba that the Sudan will be the host next June for the heads of the African states at a meeting which will discuss issues vital and important to the African Continent at this decisive time.

NONALINED COUNTRIES' LABOR MINISTERS MEET

LD270852Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD

[Summary[The first conference of labor ministers of the nonalined and developing countries concluded its work in Tunis last night.

In his speech at the final session, Mohamed Jomaa, Tunisian labor minister of social affairs, said that the conference clearly reflected the determination of the developing and nonalined countries to achieve effective solidarity and that the conference's resolutions will undoubtedly help to extricate millions from poverty and ignorance. He noted that the conference will form a new stage in cooperation and relations among these countries, which are now beginning to rely on themselves, and among whom cooperation is beginning to become a reality.

The conference approved the report of the first committee on a program of action at the International Labor Conference. The committee devoted its work in this connection to the use of raw materials, foreign trade questions, financial and monetary cooperation, industrialization and agricultural development. The conference also discussed aspects of cooperation with the ILO and other UN agencies. The conference stressed the need for solving problems of unemployment. It also considered that it is only growth of national production that can help the developing states to better their living conditions and improve education and health services.

The conference called for the radical reform of certain aspects, such as the distribution of revenues, education, the training of workers and the improvement of the status of women.

It stressed that the success of the national strategy regarding basic requirements totally depends on the strengthening of world peace, disarmament and the creation of a new international economic order.

In the report of its second committee, the conference considered technical cooperation among the developing countries as one of the elements of the new international economic order that helps to achieve economic and social development through a fairer balance in international economic relations.

After approving the general report, the chairman of the nonalined group proposed that a message of thanks and appreciation be sent to President Bourguiba and to the Tunisian Government and people for organizing the conference and for the efforts made by Tunisia for the success of this conference.

LIBYAN-TUNISIAN TALKS ON INDUSTRY OPEN IN TUNIS

LD2216402 Tripoli JANA in English 1320 GMT 22 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tunis, April 22, JANA--The official talks between the Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Tunisia in the field of industry opened here at the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mines yesterday.

On the Arab Libyan side the talks were led by the secretary of commerce, Abu Bakr ash-Sharif, [title as received] and by Rachid Safar on the Tunisian side.

These talks come within the framework of the joint Libyan Arab-Tunisian committee for cooperation and the drawing up of practical steps to carry out industrial projects in the two countries.

These talks have been preceded by a closed meeting between the heads of the two delegations.

DEFENSE MINISTER TO VISIT PRC FROM 30 APRIL

LD2713247 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The Ministry of National Defense has issued the following statement:

Abdallah Farhat, minister of national defense, will pay an official visit to the People's Republic of China beginning 30 April 1978 at the invitation of Hsu Hsiang-chien, PRC minister of national defense.

Abdallah Farhat will be accompanied by his wife and by Maj Gen Abdelhamed Cheikh, chief of staff of the land forces, and by a delegation of high-ranking officers.

During his stay in the PRC, Abdallah Farhat will conduct talks with senior Chinese officials and visit military and civilian establishments. This visit falls within the framework of the bonds of friendship and cooperation on which the relations between the two countries are based.

EX-MINISTER QUESTIONED ON SLANDER CHARGE

LD2009417 Paris LE MONDE in French 19 Apr 78 p 6 LD

[Michel Deure report: "Mr Mestiri Appears Before an Examining Magistrate"]

[Text] Tunis--Mr Ahmed Mestiri, leader of the social democratic opposition movement and former interior and defense minister, appeared before the senior examining magistrate at Tunis country court on Monday 17 April charged with slandering the government and spreading false information by the republic's prosecutor.

These proceedings are the result of statements made at a press conference in London on 13 March (LE MONDE of 15 March). Mr Mestiri had stated that the regime had lost all popular support and was forced to resort to violence to stay in power, that there was greater freedom in Tunisia when it was a French protectorate than there is now and that 140 people were killed in the 26 January Tunis riots, whereas official records state that only 51 people died.

Mr Mestiri refused to make any statement when he left the magistrate's office, pointing out that the examination process was secret. Out of professional solidarity, 66 of his Tunis bar colleagues including barrister leader Fathi Zouhir, vice president of the National Assembly, have united to defend him and attended his hearing, which lasted 30 minutes.

Mr Mestiri returned to Tunis on Saturday 15 April after a foreign tour lasting more than 2 months. According to his entourage, he met, in particular, Mr Willy Brandt, Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, President Boumediene, King Hassan II and Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

In a recent speech to the National Assembly (LE MONDE of 11 April), Prime Minister Hedi Nouira expressed surprise at these meetings.

NEW JORDANIAN, BANGLADESH AMBASSADORS RECEIVED

LD1310117 Tunis L'ACTION in French 8 Apr 78 pp 1-2 LD

[Summary] On 7 April new Jordanian Ambassador to Tunisia (Hamud Mohamed Bayder) [as transliterated] and new Bangladesh Ambassador to Tunisia (Dhamir Eddine Ahmed) [as transliterated] were received by President Bourguiba, to whom they presented their credentials.

WESTERN SAHARA

SAHARAN FORCES CLAIM FURTHER BATTLE VICTORIES

LD252303Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Apr 78 LD

[Text] An informed source from the Ministry of Defense of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic has announced that the Saharan liberation forces have waged a series of successful assaults on the positions of the invasion and occupation forces in the Tifariti area.

On 22 April an armored unit of the royal armed forces in Wadi Bujirbah, north of Tifariti, returned with difficulty to its base, pursued by the revolutionaries, and was surrounded in Tifariti. Sixteen royal soldiers were killed and 20 others wounded. Three military vehicles were destroyed and the enemy establishments and centers in the region were destroyed.

On 23 April, in the same area, the Saharan liberation contingents surrounded the royal forces and engaged them [words indistinct] and inflicted on them heavy losses in lives and equipment. A royal soldier was captured and another was killed. The revolutionaries during these engagements captured a large quantity of weapons and military equipment.

BRIEFS

LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN--Tripoli, April 27, JANA--Mr Abdel Wahab al-Zintani, the Jamahiriyah's new ambassador to Sudan, yesterday presented his credentials to president Ja'far Numayri. On the occasion, the Sudanese president delivered a speech in which he praised the brotherly relations between the two countries and saluted the efforts exerted by the Jamahiriyah and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in settling African questions. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 1451 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD]

MOROCCAN MINISTER RETURNS--The minister of energy and minerals returned tonight from Cairo where he attended a meeting of the committee in charge of implementing resolutions of the third Arab conference on mineral resources which was held in Rabat. [Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD]

NEW MOROCCAN UN ENVOY--His Majesty King Hassan II has appointed Dr Abdellatif al-Filali as Morocco's permanent representative to the United Nations. [Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Apr 78 LD]

MOROCCAN FINANCE MINISTER RETURNS--Abdellatif Ghissassi, Moroccan minister of finance, returned to Morocco on Monday following visits to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. In Riyadh Ghissassi held discussions with his Saudi counterpart as well as with the chairman of the Islamic Bank. With them he signed agreements concerning loans of $40 million and $15 million, respectively, for the financing of construction work at the port of El-Jorf Lastar and for Moroccan imports of oil and cement. During his visit to Kuwait, Ghissassi was received by the amir of Kuwait and held discussions with his Kuwaiti counterpart as well as with leaders of various Arab finance organizations participating in financing economic and social development projects in Morocco. [Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 25 Apr 78 LD]

HA'AREZ VIEWS FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONMAKING PROCESS

TA2708Z1Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 28 Apr 78 p 14 TA

['Uzzi Benziman article]

[Excerpt] Two people determine the government's foreign policy and thus influence the country's fate: Menahem Begin and Moshe Dayan. Sixteen out of the other 17 ministers accept the prime minister's and the foreign minister's opinions post factum. The other minister, 'Ezer Weizman, has himself lately been trying to reach the front of the stage on which the central process of decisionmaking in foreign affairs is being made, but his moves have so far carried an air of temporariness and inconsistency. For the time being, Weizman has not been incorporated into the duo which determines the central moves of Israel's foreign policy.

Neither the prime minister's office nor the Foreign Ministry have influence on the Israeli line of policy; instead, the two men who head these offices shape the policy, without significant consultations with their subordinates. In the prime minister's office there are no people or departments meant to deal with feeding the prime minister with information and evaluations concerning foreign policy. Apart from the intelligence agencies, who pass on information and analyses to the prime minister, his deputy, the foreign minister and the defense minister, no authority whose job is to deal with political planning or strategic thinking operates alongside Begin.

The prime minister is surrounded by a small group of people, who help him fulfill his job in navigating the affairs of the state. The rest of the employees in the prime minister's office are doing various jobs that have no real connection to Mr Begin's work. For years the prime minister's office has been a collection of departments where any contact among them is coincidental, and in no way has a bearing on the prime minister's actions.

The small group surrounding Mr Begin in his everyday work includes the director of his office, Yehi'el Qadishay; the director general of the office, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar; the military secretary, Efrayim Poran; the government secretary, Arye Na'or; the adviser for Jewish affairs, Yehuda Avner, as well as the two spokesmen: Shelomo Naqdimon and Dan Patir. According to their job description, and according to their personal status, neither Poran, nor Na'or, Naqdimon nor Patir, deal with giving any kind of political advice to the prime minister. Yehi'el Qadishay is a devoted and loyal director of the office, whose job is to bring to Mr Begin, and to take away, and he has no pretensions of giving him advice. If Yehuda Avner gives Mr Begin advice, it is not with respect to substantive political affairs. Among the group of aides there is only Eliyahu Ben-Elisar who remains as a possible candidate for fulfilling any kind of job which calls for presenting a political stance. Indeed Ben-Elisar had several ideas of his own regarding the tactics of conducting the negotiations with Egypt, but his position was not accepted.

In short: the prime minister does not have an institutionalized system whose job it is to advise him in the political sphere and to oppose his line in an attempt to enrich the deliberations, to present alternatives and to try to predict, through the use of sophisticated tools, what will happen as a result of the government's political moves. Even the group of people surrounding the prime minister is not capable of fulfilling this need--whether because it does not regard it as its job, or because it lacks the talent. [paragraph continues]

What counts most of all is that this group of people (except for Poran and Patir, who are fulfilling basically jobs of a technical nature) identifies a priori with Begin's basic opinions, and feels personal loyalty and unbounded admiration for him. There is no real chance that these people will seriously oppose the prime minister's views.

It must be said that this situation is not new in the prime minister's office. The structure of the office and its functions are no different today from what was common practice during the terms of other prime ministers. The prime minister's office has always been populated by people close to the prime minister, and has never fulfilled the job of a team of aides who have influence in political matters. There were, of course, differences in the relationships between the different prime ministers and their aides, but basically, the prime ministers in Israel have never had consulting systems of advisory teams whose job it was to improve the decisionmaking process concerning political issues.

In the Foreign Ministry political activity is concentrated in the minister's office. Moshe Dayan does not include anyone in his decisions. At most his pair of personal aides (Naftali Lavi and Eli Rubinstein) serves as an anvil on which he examines his ideas, which are renovated frequently (Dayan is gifted with an impressive ability for a proliferation of ideas). Occasionally Dayan might widen the circle of experimentation by reporting his views to the ministry executive. The current political information is concentrated in the minister's office, and there is hardly anybody who goes down to his subordinates.

No one in the Foreign Ministry is a participant in the minister's policy making process. There is nothing new in that either. Israel's foreign ministers have always been dominant persons, who have paid little attention to their subordinates' ideas and viewpoints. Golda Meir and Abba Eban were like that and also Yig'al Allon (even though with him there was greater cooperation with the ministry's departments with respect to his decision-making). The situation may have been different during Moshe Sharet's time, but in those days the influence of the foreign minister in determining national policy was minor.

The difference between the present period and that of former foreign ministers lies in the potential of contrasting views hidden in the Foreign Ministry. For the first time in the history of the country the team of workers at the Foreign Ministry serves as a human reservoir which objects to the official policy. Through the years, people with Labor Party orientations have gathered in the senior posts at the Foreign Ministry. The same applies to Israeli representations abroad. The voice of that team of workers has not been heard for 11 months. They are not trying to merge into the policy making process--at least not at the stage where new thought germinates.

As a result of the existing situation in the prime minister's and the foreign minister's offices foreign policy is determined by Begin and Dayan exclusively.

COMMENTATOR REVIEWS U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL

TA271247Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Apr 78 p 15 TA

[Yosef Harif article]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has decided to go to the United States after all. [paragraph continues]

"After all" because not only in Washington but also in Jerusalem the question has arisen as to whether, with the tense nature of relations between Israel and the United States, it would be useful and desirable for the prime minister to meet with President Carter during his visit to the United States to open the celebrations of Israel's 30th anniversary without first preparing the ground to remove misunderstandings that exist between them or to restore the credibility which has been significantly if not totally undermined.

There is virtually no doubt that President Carter also had a part in the U.S. campaign against the prime minister with the transparent aim of creating ferment within Israel, dividing U.S. Jewry in its staunch support for Israel and forcing Begin to make the concessions desired by As-Sadat. Thus Carter did what he had promised at the beginning of his political momentum when he said in an interview to TIME magazine that if "one leader" is in a position of "direct opposition to all the other sides, including the United States, then strong momentum will be generated in the direction of that leader for him to fall in line with the vast majority." When Carter was asked what he would do if the Israeli position did not change, he said: "First, I would try to recruit the support of the leaders; second, public opinion among the people, the elements that have influence the world over, public opinion in the EEC and in Arab countries."

It was clear that Carter would not hesitate to undermine Begin's position in Israel, because he was aware of the fact that the opposition--the Alinement--manifests a greater willingness toward compromise on the territorial issue.

Carter announced these tactics prior to As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. As-Sadat's arrival in Jerusalem gave the administration "authority" to carry out the threat even though the administration felt that Begin showed more flexibility than they had expected, despite the fact that it was As-Sadat who made his position inflexible and did not move an inch from his two well-known demands about total withdrawal to the 1967 borders and granting the Palestinians "self-determination."

The more it became apparent to the U.S. administration that its tactics were "working"--that is, the more the U.S. communications media, which had previously praised Begin for being a courageous and great leader, began to describe him--not without inspiration from above--as a "barrier to peace," the more that Jews in the United States began to criticize the Israeli Government in an attempt to undermine its position in the eyes of the people--then the more it appeared to the Carter-Brzezinski administration that with a "little more pressure" on Israel, another defamation of Begin, the aim would be achieved: Israel would accept the "Aswan formula" in its entirety which would enable the beginning of substantive negotiations with Egypt along As-Sadat's lines, with the Palestinians being given a solution in the form of a referendum behind which hid a Palestinian homeland. If the U.S. administration could achieve these two things then its position in the Middle East would be firmly entrenched.

At a meeting between a group of Jewish leaders and Vice President Walter Mondale and in the presence of President Carter's adviser, the President himself "turned up" for a 20-minute talk and was openly asked: Why is the President dealing with Begin, who has done so much to enable honorable peace negotiations, in this way while not saying a word about As-Sadat, who has not shown any signs of compromise? President Carter's answer was: I have good relations with Prime Minister Begin...and I have a deep commitment to Israel's security, but one must understand that the Arabs also want peace...As-Sadat wants peace....

Well, despite these "good relations" the prime minister was advised to think again about whether he should go to the United States at the moment with there being no sign of a change in the U.S. position.

Begin's answer was: It is the United States that is giving--it is because there is no understanding with the United States on certain issues that I should go...and anyway, I am going to visit the Jewish community in order to celebrate the 30th year of our independence with them.

It transpires that the administration faced a difficult dilemma: not to invite Begin to the White House while he is in the United States would anger public opinion; to invite him--is it possible to be hospitable and well-mannered without there being anything else to it? A compromise was found. The White House would hold a celebration in honor of the 30th anniversary of Israel's independence to which the prime minister, who would be in the country at the time, would be invited.

As for the brass tacks, the two--Carter and Begin--will also meet for a private talk, but the degree of substance of the talk will depend on the contents of the talk that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will conduct with Secretary of State Vance before that. If progress is made--if the hints that have been coming from Washington this week to the effect that the United States might back down from the idea of a referendum in Judaea and Samaria are true--Carter and Begin will go into substantive issues, and if not, the private talk can be a polite conversation befitting the "good relations" that the President spoke of, and when the prime minister leaves the United States the confrontation will become more severe.

From the contacts that have been conducted in the United States over the past few days it transpires that the administration now prefers the talks with Moshe Dayan. Why? "There is a certain difficulty in speaking with Mr Begin...it is easier with Dayan," one of the President's senior aides said.

Perhaps, but Dayan has also said of himself that he is not going to Washington with anything to sell. Moreover, after the consultations conducted this week between Dayan and the prime minister--in view of his departure for the United States--the administration can 'calm down' because Dayan will not deviate from the line that was consolidated in those consultations in Jerusalem and which smacks of the prime minister's personal seal.

"Great pressure is being exerted on us," Begin admitted in consulatations in Jerusalem, "but we must not fold under pressure." When Begin says that we must "stand firm" he is also talking about the formulation of a declaration of principles even though Dayan perhaps claims--as implied in his remarks on his departure for the United States--that "in the long run it is not so important...a word here, a word there...."

Perhaps Dayan expressed these reservations in the consultations with the prime minister. At any rate, Begin takes a strong view of the forumulation of the declaration of principles: "If formulation is not important," he said, "why doesn't the other side concede."

When mentioning the "other side," the prime minister is apparently including not only Egypt but also the United States which, until now, has not been prepared to soften its "Aswan formula." Prior to entering the plane, Dayan said that the thing that is important is "what stands behind the words" and this is the key problem: behind the words proposed by the United States there is a very clear inclination--the establishment of a "Palestinian homeland" as opposed to, as it were, an independent Palestinian state for which, in the administration's opinion, Israel would have to concede almost all the territories in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

The entire "Peace Now" camp--a large part of whose supporters are members of the Labor Party center, is ignoring, perhaps consciously, this transparent tendency and is coming out, not against As-Sadat and not against Carter, who are preventing a fair compromise, but against the government. The desire to undermine the foundations of the government appears to be the reason several Alinement leaders have jumped on the "peace bandwagon" which is galloping in an unknown direction. It is surely not coincidental that personalities such as Shim'on Peres, Yizhaq Rabin, Yisra'el Galilie, Golda Meir and the like did not jump on the wagon like Yig'al Allon and Abba Eban.

Indeed, this government is not wise enough to convince public opinion, and perhaps it does not have the necessary talent for propaganda. However, must we believe Washington's and Cairo's intentions rather than our own government's because of the government's bad public relations?

One good example of the government's lack of talent to sell even its own good merchandise was brought home to the prime minister during the meeting at his office in Jerusalem with influential Jewish leaders, who 1 week later met the President and the vice president in Washington. One of the leaders told Begin: We agree with you that the Israeli peace plan is good, but the U.S. public does not know this. Here, take an example from me: Several days ago we met with approximately 400 leaders of U.S. Jewish community and I asked them, as an experiment, who knew what the first article of the Israeli peace plan (which consists of 26 articles) is. None of them knew, and it is a very significant article--"The administration of the military government in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District will be abolished..."

As-Sadat, on the other hand, convinced, and without using many articles, U.S. and world public opinion that he is the man of peace, even though he did not go back on his hard conditions--a total Israeli withdrawal, and a country for the Palestinians. True, it was the U.S. administration which helped him directly in that, but the fact remains that Israel has so far been unable to shake the Carter-As-Sadat front against the Government of Israel.

Some of the truth nevertheless is beginning to penetrate the awareness of the U.S. public, which has for weeks undergone an anti-Israeli brainwashing. Columnists in the U.S. press are beginning to think about and question the anti-Israeli campaign. One of them writes: It would be worthwhile knowing if As-Sadat is really the peacemaker and Begin the one who breaks it. It was As-Sadat who stopped the talks; it is doubtful if he ever regarded them seriously. As-Sadat knew Begin's views before his visit to Jerusalem. In his invitation to the Egyptian president, Begin rejected As-sadat's conditions. During the Jerusalem talks and in Ismailia, As-Sadat learned that Begin is much more flexible than he had been portrayed. All As-Sadat is doing now, the columnist states, is organizing a U.S. campaign for pressuring Israel, while Begin is trying to revive the peace talks. Why should we complain about the United States, when people are doing the same work in Israel? It was a "thou shalt" that everyone on the right and on the left stand behind the "Peace Now" camp, if negotiations had ensued during which it had become clear that Begin's stubbornness was the obstacle to peace. However, is that what actually happened? Did As-Sadat enter negotiations at all? Did the negotiations begin in the first place?

What happened was that Israel submitted its own peace plan, which was praised by most of the members of the "Peace Now" movement, while the other party promised that it would submit a counterplan (that is what As-Sadat expressly promised Begin at Ismailia)--and did not stand up to its word. Instead, it only continued to demand two things: A total withdrawal to the 1967 lines and a Palestinian state, as conditions for the renewal of the dialog.

Dayan, who is now having talks in Washington, argues with the United States: We only said that the Israeli peace plan is the basis for negotiations, and the other party, if it does not like this plan, may suggest its own plan, but let it submit a plan. What As-Sadat is presenting is not a plan.

It is clear, however, why As-Sadat is not presenting a plan, because if he did present one, it would be clear that his entire plan could be summed up in two main articles: a total withdrawal from the Sinai, the Golan Heights, Judaea and Samaria (as per Egypt's formula of the declaration of principles) and self-determination for the Palestinians. That is the reason. As-Sadat did not change his draft of the declaration of principles one bit. Israel has already changed much, and more than once. Is that "negotiations" for peace?

At a meeting with the group of Jewish leaders from the United States who promised the prime minister to back the Israeli peace plan in its entirely and to try to win U.S. public opinion over to it (in skillful U.S. systems, and not in the Israeli sloppiness) Begin told them: Gentlemen, you must know that we are dealing with the future of the State of Israel. This is no longer a question of one settlement or another interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242. This is a question of our very existence, and that is why their support is needed.

Both As-Sadat and Carter must convince the nation and its leaders about the nature of the peace they are striving for. It is not true that because of the government's unwillingness to accept territorial compromise that peace is delayed. There is no doubt that this government would not have survived even 1 day if peace were conditioned not upon a total withdrawal to the 1967 lines and the establishment of a Palestinian state, but rather on a territorial compromise. In fact the government put a challenge to the other party--the United States on the one hand, and Egypt and Jordan on the other. The challenge is: Israel would be willing to discuss a compromise, even with Jordan, if such a proposal were made. Why does the other party not suggest this?

What "the other party"--in this case Washington and Cairo--is suggesting is the formula of the declaration of principles. If the reference were only to "words," then it would have been possible to overcome them. Theoretically it is possible now to overcome the difficulties of the formulation, after Israel has already agreed to say that it is ready to apply Resolution 242, which talks about withdrawal on "all fronts," for the sake of the negotiations. What remains on the surface, is only one expression in the Aswan formula which stands in the way of completing the declaration of principles--"The legitimate rights of the Palestinian people must be recognized."

When a way to overcome the formulating difficulties was sought in Jerusalem and this expression was reached, one of the people who greatly contributed to formulations said that if the other party firmly stands upon the mentioning of "legitimate rights" in the document, there might be a way to overcome even this. For example, we would say that "the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arabs to participate in determining their future must be recognized."

If the problem were only "words" perhaps the other party would have regarded this proposal as a "redeeming formula" and would have lent a hand to the completion of the declaration of principles. However, as Dayan has said, the problem is not words, but what hides behind them, and one can learn the real intentions from the following facts:

The first time Washington agreed to adopt that expression--which was accepted only by the Soviet and the Arabs--was last October, when the United States pretended innocence and included in the U.S.-Soviet communique the phrase that there is here "no new U.S. policy." (Vance's words)

This innocent disguise was torn off at the time by William Safire, the well known U.S. columnist who was a speechwriter for President Nixon. He wrote: If Secretary of State Cyrus Vance "was somewhat surprised," as he claimed to be, by the strong reaction (of the U.S. public) against the U.S.-Soviet declaration granting the Arabs what they are demanding even before the peace talks have begun, then the secretary of state must be a fool. If, however, as seems more reasonable, President Carter's political advisers are only pretending to be surprised so that they can claim that this deal between Moscow and Washington about granting "legitimate rights" to people that have committed themselves to destroying Israel carries no new policy, then Carter thinks the U.S. public is stupid. The clear-cut conclusion of Safire--who in the days of the previous administration was well informed on highly classified affairs--is that this approach constitutes a definite detour from the former president's policy. He even defined this step of the Carter administration as an act of "treason" against Israel, and in his estimation, it was proved that Carter was simply trying to take out of Israel the territories it conquered in a war that was forced upon it, and to force upon it now a Palestinian state.

Is there really no change in policy in this need for this expression regarding "legitimate rights?"

It is a fact that the previous administration did not accept this expression, which the Soviets forced Washington to accept, as the basis for a peace agreement. On 2 July, 1974 --at the end of the summit meeting in Moscow--the secretary of state at the time, Henry Kissinger sent the prime minister at the time, Yizhaq Rabin, a telegram to explain to him the Middle Eastern article in the joint communique, in which there was reference to "legitimate interests" of the Palestinians, but not "legitimate rights," as the Soviets demanded. All that had been said was, according to Kissinger, that a permanent peace "must take into consideration the legitimate interests of all the nations in the Middle East, including the Palestinian people, and the rights of all the countries in the area to exist." Kissinger wrote to Rabin that from the formulation of the communique Rabin could find proof that the formulation used by the United States "did not constitute any new element..."

Is there no change in U.S. policy? Did any president ever talk about a "homeland" before? Clearly, anyone who talks about a "homeland" also needs the expression of "legitimate rights." However, why try to guess the hidden meaning behind the words? When Vance was specifically asked in Jerusalem: Does "legitimate rights" mean also the establishment of a homeland for the Palestinians in the West Bank? His answer was: Definitely, yes.

The idea is that Israel withdraw from all of Judaea and Samaria, with only "minor alterations," and that it transfer the evacuated territories to the new "homeland," which will be connected to Jordan. That is what the discussion is all about. Since Carter saw that he would not be able to achieve this except by means of pressure, he agreed to the idea of IDF military camps in the West Bank behind the political border (which must be, more or less, the green line). One of Dayan's missions in his Washington visit will be to find out from the administration how, in fact, it sees the matter of IDF bases in Judaea and Samaria.

So far there have not been real signs that the United States has changed its position, and the spirit of Brzezinski is still hovering over the administration's policy in Washington. If indeed the United States gives up the idea of referendum and encourages the acceptance of the Israeli autonomy plan as "an interim arrangement" for a period of 5 years and does not stand firm upon the matter of the "legitimate rights" in the declaration of principles, then there is a slight chance for putting off the conflict between Washington and Jerusalem.

It seems that not only Begin, but also Brzezinski, follow Ze'ev Jabotinski. Jabotinski, Zbigniew Brzezinski said recently, deals with problems by defining the final aim first, and from that point goes back, in order to see how one can reach the goal one has set.

The "final goal" of the administration, in the Brzezinski spirit, is to take Israel out of all the territories. Brzezinski terms all the settlements, including those which the Alinement accepts, "semicolonialism." That is precisely how he defined them in an internal discussion in Washington. In his opinion, every settlement is a "political rather than security" matter.

Carter's and Brzezinski's direction is quite conspicuous. The vast majority in Israel rejects it. Are we to believe that "the obstacle on the way to peace" is precisely in Israel and that only Washington points to the way to peace? Much has been written in the U.S. press about the architect behind the conflict with Israel, Zbigniew Brzezinski. Among other things, it has been said by a noted Western intellectual, who is very well acquainted with Brzezinski's writings, that "Brzezinski is gifted with a special talent for making errors..."

It seems that many of the U.S. administration's moves prove this evaluation. Israel is at present in political distress, and more signs show that in the United States, too, people are beginning to sober up and think that the Carter-Brzezinski administration has been slightly exaggerating, when, instead of acting for peace, it waged war on...the Government of Israel.

FIRST DIRECT CAIRO-LOD CIVILIAN FLIGHT ARRIVES

TA271638Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Apr 78 TA

[Text] This afternoon 160 pilgrims who arrived from Cairo on a U.S. airplane say they are the first tourists to arrive on a direct flight from Egypt to Israel. They have spent 40 days traveling around the world with the aim of advancing world peace.

They wanted to travel from Cairo via the route President as-Sadat took on his visit to Jerusalem, but since that was not possible, their plane took a direct route, but over the Mediterranean Sea.

CURFEW VIOLATORS ARRESTED IN NABULUS

TA271230Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Apr 78 TA

[Text] In Nabulus, the curfew around the square, where two volunteers from Germany were killed yesterday by a bomb placed inside their bus, remains in force. Several violators of the curfew have been arrested. Life is being conducted as usual in the other neighborhoods of Nabulus.

FIRE BOMB THROWN IN JANIN; LOCAL RESIDENT INJURED

TA280554Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Apr 78 TA

[Excerpt] A fire bomb was thrown at an Israeli army Jeep in the West Bank town of Janin last night. The bomb missed its target but injured a local resident. The man responsible for the attack fled the scene.

JERUSALEM MAYOR HOLDS PLO RESPONSIBLE FOR BUS ATTACK

LD271230Y Hamburg DPA in German 1128 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv--Teddy Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem, holds the PLO responsible for the attack on the tourist bus in Nabulus. "This organization has again demonstrated its violent tendencies," Kollek said today in a DPA interview. "Unfortunately, European countries, including the FRG, tend to show understanding for these criminals. This time the terrorists have murdered innocent German children who came to Israel to give humanitarian aid." Kollek stressed that the "Sign of Atonement Action" has for years been active in Jerusalem on behalf of Jews and non-Jews and expressed the hope that the organization will not cease its activity.

IDF TO DEPLOY MERKAVA TANKS IN 1979

TA272030Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[Text] The first Merkava tanks will enter regular deployment in the IDF next year, the quartermaster general, Maj Gen Arye Levi has said.

In General Levi's opinion, the IDF is at present equipped with all the tanks it will need for the next few years.

MODA'I REJECTS EGYPTIAN COMPLAINTS ON SINAI OIL SEARCH

TA270700Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Yizhaq Moda'i has said that Israel rejects Egypt's demand to cease the search for oil and the drillings in Sinai. He maintained that these demands have no legal foundation nor are they supported by the Geneva and Vienna conventions. The Foreign Ministry and the legal adviser to the government have expressed legal opinions rejecting Egyptian claims. As opposed to the oilfield in Abu Rudays, which was discovered and developed by the Egyptians prior to the 6-day war, the fields in 'Alma and At-Tur and the fields in the Rafah approaches were developed by Israel. At the same time, the minister of energy stressed that the oil and gas issue in Sinai will not be a barrier to peace. These are commercial and economic issues which have to be discussed in the framework of a peace treaty with Egypt. Minister Moda'i was speaking with our correspondent Yosi Melman.

AFGHANISTAN

COUP AGAINST GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL

Early Report

TA2716487 Paris AFP in English 1639 GMT 27 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Islamabad, April 27--(AFP)--President Mohammed Daud of Afghanistan has been overthrown by an armed forces revolutionary council, Kabul Radio reported today in a broadcast monitored here. The Persian-language broadcast named Col Abdul Qadir as head of the armed force revolutionary council and warned that anyone violating the council's orders "will be dealt with."

A later announcement asked citizens of Kabul, the Afgan capital, to remain indoors.

The broadcast followed reports from diplomatic sources here of fierce fighting in Kabul since noon (0700 GMT) today. The sources said that at least 50 tanks and MIG jet fighters had taken part in the fighting, which centered around the presidential palace and the Interior and Defense ministries.

Now aged 68, Mohammed Daud became president of Afghanistan in July 1973 after leading a coup d-etat against King Mohammed Zahir Shah. He was re-elected for a six year term in early 1977.

In December 1976, authorities uncovered a plot against President Daud headed by retired General Mir Ahmed Shah. Other plots have been reported.

Reports reaching here from Kabul said that the capital's international airport, air force headquarters and several ministries had been strafed by MIG jets.

Rebel forces seized the Interior Ministry, located in central Kabul, the reports said, and policemen resisting the coup on the roof took heavy fire from the rebels.

Eyewitnesses said that civilian employees at the Interior Ministry left the buiding with their hands up. Bodies of victims in both camps were carried out, the eyewitnesses added.

Tanks, apparently supporting the coup, were in position outside most official buildings. Soldiers in both camps were quoted as saying they did not know for whom they were fighting, but they were following orders from their officers.

Earlier, diplomatic sources here said that MIG-21 planes had bombarded and strafed Kabul airport, which was in rebel hands.

Bodies were seen in the combat zone, and the French Embassy adjoining the presidential palace was hit by tank shells. The consular building was destroyed, but no foreign victims were reported, the diplomatic sources said.

Communications links from Afghanistan were cut at about 3:30 pm (1030 GMT). Kabul Radio broadcasts were halted for a time and resumed with classical music before the first announcement that the coup had succeeded.

The coup announcement carried a message from General Abdul Qadir "to his countrymen" saying that, "For the first time in the history of Afghanistan the last remnants of the cruel and oppressive Nadir Khan dynasty has ended."

(In New Delhi, Press Trust of India news agency quoted an early Kabul Radio broadcast as saying that several people "who were jeopardizing national security" had been arrested, and arrest warrants were issued for several others who had gone underground.

(The arrests were said to be linked to incidents at the funeral of Afgan communist leader Aqbar Khabir on April 17.)

Observers in Islamabad believed the fighting was launched by a radical leftist faction within the army.

Opposition inside the army to President Daud's "soft" and neutral policy regarding the two blocs was public knowledge in Kabul, the observers said, noting that three leading Afgan political figures had been assassinated in the past six months.

The April 17 murder of Mir Aqbar Khabir, founder of the pro-Soviet communist group Parcham, led to anti-American demonstrations despite a ban on all political activity and assembly in Afghanistan.

President Daud had mentioned "anti-national" forces on the left and right several times since he took power.

An arid, mountainous country which gained independence in 1919, Afghanistan shares borders with the Soviet Union, Iran, Pakistan and China. It has a population of 17 million people, 2.5 million of whom live as nomads who have a reputation as fierce warriors.

Qadir New Ruler

BK280313Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Apr 78 BK

[Excerpt] In Afghanistan, a military revolutionary council has overthrown the government of President Daud and taken over control of the country.

Official announcements by the council over Kabul Radio around midnight, monitored by All-India Radio, said that President Daud has been eliminated. He was described as the last general of the Nadirshahi family.

The revolutionary council, which is headed by Gen Abdul Qadir, made brief statements in Pushto and Dari languages informing the people that power has come into the hands of the people for the first time and that the council is in full command of the situation. A curfew was imposed, and people were advised to stay indoors.

The military council proclaimed that it will safeguard the values of Islamic religion. It said Afghanistan will follow a policy of strict nonalinement.

Broadcasting on Radio Kabul, General Qadir said Afghanistan will continue to maintain relations with all countries with which it has friendly ties. The council gave assurance of the safety of the embassies and foreign nationals in Kabul.

Daud Reported Killed

BK280608Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0605 GMT 28 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, April 28 (AFP)--Afgan President Mohammed Daud was killed in yesterday's coup d'etat, Afghanistan Radio monitored here announced today.

It said President Daud had repeatedly refused to surrender, and he had been killed.

Fighting Continues

TA280720Y Paris AFP in English 0702 GMT 28 Apr 78 TA

[Excerpts] Islamabad, April 28 (AFP)--A diplomatic source in Islamabad said fighting was still going on this morning in Kabul between partisans of President Daud and rebel soldiers.

The rebels were meeting with stiff resistance in some quarters of the capital despite the radio announcement that the president and his brother were dead. His brother, Naim, was his closest adviser and former foreign minister.

The Justice Ministry was hit by rockets, and a plane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire, the source said. It was not known which side lost the plane.

Diplomats said it was still risky to go about in the capital because of shooting. But the evacuation of foreigners had not yet been envisaged, the source said.

Revolutionary Council Communique

BK280823Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 28 Apr 78 BK

[Text] In Afghanistan, former President Sardar Mohammad Daud and his brother, Sardar Mohammad Naim, have been killed. The revolutionary council, which assumed power in the country yesterday, in a communique broadcast over Kabul Radio this morning said that former President Mohammad Daud and his brother were killed while resisting the revolution.

The communique said the former president's oppressive regime and self-proclaimed constitution have ended. The communique said the country's administration would not be run through military revolutionary council decrees. According to the communique, the revolutionary council is in full control of the situation. All units of the armed forces have expressed allegiance to the revolutionary council and are discharging their duties.

The communique said that three generals and ministers of the defunct government who have so far not surrendered to the revolutionary council should do so immediately or face action. The communique said all types of processions and meetings have been banned until further notice. The communique asked the people to continue their normal life.

According to reports reaching Islamabad, the situation is returning to normal in Kabul, and personnel of the Pakistan Embassy and their families are safe.

Qadir Background

BK280838Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0834 GMT 28 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, April 28 (AFP)--Lieutenant-Colonel Abdul Qadir, the man behind yesterday's coup in Afghanistan, is relatively unknown to his countrymen, a reliable source said here today.

Lt Col Qadir, an air force officer who became head of the country's military revolutionary council, was not among the high military dignitaries of the previous regime, the source noted.

Judging from his rank, he probably is aged around 40, one of the young officers who supported the previous coup that overthrew the monarchy in 1973, the source said.

Reports from Kabul indicated that the armed forces general staff did not take part in the new coup, since the air force headquarters was machine-gunned by rebel planes.

Most of the air force sided with the rebels and apparently played a predominant part in the coup. The army seems to have been more evenly divided, which resulted in the fighting around the presidential palace.

More on Fighting

BK2809587 Hong Kong AFP in English 0953 GMT 28 Apr 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, April 28 (AFP)--Diplomatic sources said here that fighting was continuing in Kabul today, nearly 24 hours after rebel officers announced the overthrow and death of President Mohammed Daud in a military coup.

The sources said there were several pockets of active resistance to the "military revolutionary council" which said it had seized power.

Shooting was continuing, and an unidentified plane was shot down, the sources said. They said the presidential palace was still in flames, and bodies were strewn outside.

Afgan Radio, monitored here, called on the population to go to their normal places of work today but, the sources said, streets remained deserted.

The Afgan Embassy here said that Lt Col Abdul Qadir, who led the putsch, was 37-years-old and deputy commander of the air force.

Afgan Radio today began calling him General Qadir. The embassy said that Afghanistan's borders and airports were remaining closed today.

Western diplomatic sources here said that President Daud was killed by pistol shots at pointblank range after refusing to surrender to the rebels.

Interior Minister Arrested

JN2811437 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1124 GMT 28 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kabul, 28 April--Reports say that the interior minister in the administration of President Mohammad Daud has been arrested, and that limited battles are still raging between the coupists and the supporters of the former president.

The reports also say that the coup leader, Col Abdul Qadir belongs to the air force, which played a major role in the coup. Abdul Qadir was one of those who took part in the July 1973 coup which toppled the regime of King Mohammad Zahir Sahah.

Revolutionary Council Warning

BK281246Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Apr 78 BK

[Excerpts] The revolutionary military council, which seized power in a coup in Afghanistan yesterday, has warned forces opposed to the regime that they will be dealt with severely. The warning came in a Kabul Radio broadcast monitored by All-India Radio this afternoon. The broadcast in Pushtu language said the regime will deal severely with what it called antirevolutionary forces. This indicated that there is some resistance to the new regime.

Reports from several sources speak of fighting going on in parts of Kabul and in some other areas in the country. But the revolutionary military council has claimed in repeated broadcasts that it is in full control of the situation and what it called the Sardari [feudal] system has come to an end.

According to the French radio monitored by All-India Radio, members of Mr Daud's family have taken refuge in the French Embassy in Kabul, which itself was damaged during the fighting.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi that the Government of India is watching the situation. The External Affairs Ministry is in touch with the embassy in Kabul, and the entire Indian community is safe.

BANGLADESH

BURMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM CONTINUES TO MOUNT

Border Closed

BK271338Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 27 Apr 78 BK

[Excerpt] Bangladesh has sealed off its border with Burma after a great influx of refugees from across the border.

According to Bangladesh Radio, more than 20,000 Burmese Moslem nationals have so far crossed into Bangladesh territory.

More Refugees Arrive

BK280629Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0622 GMT 28 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Dacca April 27 (AFP)--The number of refugees shot up to 30,000 today when another 10,000 Moslems from northwest Burma arrived in Bangladesh through different border points.

The refugees, who have been pushed into Bangladesh territory at gunpoint by Burmese law enforcing agents, said that a further 50 to 60 thousand destitutes were waiting near the Burmese borders and [are] expected to cross into Bangladesh within a few days.

The evicted Moslems reported a good number of rape and arson cases and said they were subjected to all sorts of inhuman tortures in Burma.

Bangladesh administrative officials have geared up relief operations, and Red Cross relief teams joined them today.

Government Concerned

BK2808S4Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 28 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh has expressed serious concern at the mass influx of Burmese nationals into its territory bordering Burma. The Burmese ambassador, Mr Thien Win, has been called several times to the Foreign Office in Dacca over the past few days and was told about the serious concern of the government and the people of Bangladesh at the entry of thousands of Burmese nationals who have been forced to flee their ancestral homes.

The Bangladesh authorities have also urged the Burmese Government to arrange immediate succor to thousands of Burmese refugees now massing along the Bangladesh-Burma border with the intention of seeking sanctuaries from a concerted campaign of looting, arson and other atrocities.

Facilities have been offered to the Burmese ambassador to visit the border areas to see for himself the plight of the refugees.

GENERAL DASTGIR APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND

BK2510S7Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 25 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Maj Gen Quazi Golam Dastgir [Director General of Bangladesh Rifles] has been appointed Ambassador of Bangladesh to Thailand. He succeeds Mr Naruzl Islam, who was earlier appointed ambassador to Pakistan.

INDIA

DELHI RADIO REPORTS CARTER APPROVAL OF NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY

BK271742Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The American President, Mr Carter, has signed documents approving the license for the long-pending shipment of 7.6 tons of enriched uranium to the Tarapore plant. In doing so, he reversed the decision taken only a few days ago by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission refusing the license to India on the grounds that it would not accept ful-lscope safeguards.

PAKISTANI NATIONALS HELD UNDER MISA TO BE RELEASED

BK281025Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Apr 78 BK

[Text] India has decided to release all Pakistani nationals held in Indian jails under MISA [Maintenance of Internal Security Act]. Giving this information in the Upper House, the minister of state for external affairs said that India is continuing its efforts to obtain early release of the remaining Indian detainees. There are about 250 Indians in Pakistani jails.

DESAI: BORDER ISSUE TO DETERMINE PRC FRIENDSHIP

BK280901Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has reiterated that, unless the border question is decided, there can be no full friendship with China. Mr Morarji Desai said in the Rajya Sabha today that India wants to have good relations with everybody, including China. Mr Desai made it clear that India's policy is based on nonalinement.

We have a policy of friendship with all, but it is on equal terms. If somebody is unfriendly, Mr Desai said, we do not become unfriendly. This is our policy.

Earlier, replying to the main question, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Somarendra Kundu, told the house that it was agreed at the meeting between the prime minister and the leader of the Chinese delegation, Mr Wang Ping-nan, last month that all outstanding issues, including border questions, should be solved through negotiations and only through peaceful means on the basis of Pancasila. Since that meeting no further exchanges have taken place between the two governments on this issue.

GOVERNMENT MAY APPROACH PRC ON QUESTION OF BOSE PICTURES

BK2709?4Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Somarendra Kundu, said in the Lok Sabha today that the government would consider taking up with the Chinese Government the question of certain photographs said to be of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose [nationalist leader reportedly killed in 1945] published in China in 1948-49. Mr Kundu was replying to Mr Samar Guha, Janata, who, exhibiting certain photographs, said that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose visited China in 1948-49.

Replying to a question, Mr Kundu confirmed the report that some members of the Chinese delegation which visited India in March this year visited the Netaji Museum in Calcutta.

GOVERNMENT OFFERS TO SELL WHEAT TO PAKISTAN

BK2804?9Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1726 GMT 27 Apr 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, April 26 (AFP)--India has offered to supply 2 million tons of wheat to Pakistan, informed sources said today.

The offer was made during the recent visit here of Pakistani Adviser on Foreign Affairs Agha Shahi.

The sources said the price was being negotiated. The Indian offer was to sell wheat on a no profit-no loss basis.

The subject is expected to be discussed in detail at forthcoming bilateral trade talks in Islamabad, reportedly set for May 6.

India had a bumper crop of food during the financial year [which] ended March last, estimated at about 125 million tonnes, an alltime record.

BRIEFS

NEW STATE PARTY--In West Bengal, Mr P.C. Sen on 24 April announced the formation of a new party. It will be called the West Bengal Panchayat Parishad. Mr Sen, who has resigned from the Janata Party, will be the chairman of the new party. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Apr 78 BK]

IRON ORE TO JAPAN--India exported 16.34 million tons of iron ore to Japan during 1977-78. The exports are expected to be of the same order in the current financial year unless there is further deterioration in steel production in Japan. The Mineral and Metal Trade Corporation is making efforts to find markets for export of iron ore in countries other than Japan. [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Apr 78 BK]

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